

## Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY

SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8771

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS BEIRUT 7610

USIA FOR IOP M IBS IPS INA

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION

1. SUMMARY. ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER RABIN'S INTERVIEW WITH NEWSWEEK'S ARNAUD DE BORCHGRAVE COMMENTED ON BY SEVERAL PAPERS. FORTHCOMING ARAB JOINT DEFENSE COUNCIL MEETING IN CAIRO ALSO WIDELY REPORTED AND COMMENTED ON. END SUMMARY.

2. MOST PAPERS UNDERLINED CONTACTS UNDERWAY BETWEEN LEBANESE OFFICIALS AND RESISTANCE LEADERS FOR ADOPTION OF UNIFIED POSITION AT CAIRO CONFERENCE. PRO-EGYPTIAN ASH SHAAB SAID: "LEBANON CANNOT ACCEPT ARAB ASSISTANCE, WHICH WILL MAKE IT EVEN MORE VULNERABLE, WHILE OTHER ARABS ARE FLIRTING WITH AMERICA. IF ARABS ARE SERIOUS IN COMBATTING ISRAEL, THEY SHOULD DO SO EVVEN AT PRICE OF CLASH WITH WASHINGTON". PRO-LIBYAN AS SAFIR STATED: "FOR FIRST TIME IN AT LEAST 20 YEARS LEBANON WILL FIND THAT IT HAS SUPPORT FROM OVERWHELMING MAJORITY IN ARAB LEAGUE. IN PAST, LEBANON, WITH ITS SPECIAL CONDITIONS, WAS BARELY HEARD."

3. PRO-EGYPTIAN AL ANWAR LINKED SUCCESS OR FAILURE OF UNCLASSIFIED

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MOSCOW SUMMIT MEETING WITH PALESTINIAN ISSUE: "NIXON AND

BREZHNEV WILL NOT ADVANCE CAUSE OF PEACE IN MIDEAST EVEN IF THEY REACH AGREEMENT ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS. THREAT OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IS NOT AS GREAT AS THREAT OF AMERICAN BOMBS SHELLING PALESTINIAN REFUGEE CAMPS AND VILLAGES IN SOUTHERN LEBANON, BECAUSE SOVIET UNION WILL NOT ALLOW ANNIHILATION OF PALESTINIANS." SAME THEME EXPRESSED BY OTHER PAPERS IN COMMENTING ON RABIN'S STATEMENT. PRO-FEDAYEEN AL MUHARRIR SAID: "RABIN REVEALED MOST OF ISRAEL'S CARDS, THUS CLOSING DOOR TO SETTLEMENT. HE REFUSES TO WITHDRAW FROM WEST BANK FOR RELIGIOUS AND HISTORICAL TIES... HE REFUSES TO WITHDRAW FROM GOLAN HEIGHTS AND REFUSES ESTABLISHMENT OF PALESTINIAN STATE. ISRAEL IT SEEMS UNDERSTANDS ONLY LANGUAGE OF ARMS. THOSE WHO SAY THAT SETTLEMENT WITH ISRAEL IS POSSIBLE ARE FOOLING THEMSELVES." LEADING INDEPENDENT AN NAHAR: "IT LOOKS AS IF ISRAEL GIVES ARABS NO ALTERNATIVE BUT WAR, WHICH ALSO MEANS OIL WAR AGAINST AMERICA. THIS RETURN TO PRE-OCT WAR MENTALITY CREATES GRAVE SITUATION, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO THOSE ARAB STATES WHICH ACCEPTED SETTLEMENT AND GAMBLER ON AMERICA'S ABILITY TO CHANGE ISRAELI ATTITUDE." GODLEY

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## Message Attributes

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